BUCKHURST HILL

Urban District Council.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1900.

PRINTED BY JOHN W. PHELP, QUEEN'S ROAD, BUCKHURST HILL, ESSEX.

Buckhurst Hill Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For year ending December 31st, 1899.

During the year there have been registered 107 births, as against 99 last year, giving a birth rate of 22·12.

The gross death rate is higher than last year, being 16·17 as compared with 10·50. The great heat and drought caused an increase through Gastro-Intestinal troubles among young children, as also did the epidemic of measles by giving rise to lung complications.

The district comprises an area of 899 acres, and includes some 150 acres of forest land, streams and roads. There are over 900 inhabited houses in the district, and the population is about 5·5 per acre.

The subsoil is a stiff clay, having here and there pockets of gravel, but the steep gradient of the hill rapidly carries away the superfluous moisture.

Four new ventilating shafts to the sewers have been erected during the year.

The water supply is from the East London Company, and is of satisfactory quality, but not being a constant service may give trouble at any time. Every house in the district is now supplied by the Company.

The experimental beds on the bacterial system of sewage disposal continue to give satisfactory results. During the greater part of the year the whole of the effluent has been treated upon the 15 acres of land opposite the works, and the pollution of the river consequently has been infinitesimal. I have every confidence that on the scheme being completed and worked carefully, the result will be most satisfactory. The Surveyor has received instructions to prepare plans forthwith for the approval of the Local Government Board.

The epidemic of measles which occurred towards the end of the year was of a mild character, and the precaution taken through the School Attendance Officer of keeping from school all the children of infected houses was, in my opinion, more effective than the closing of the schools.

Out of the seven cases of typhoid fever for the year, five at least can be safely said to have been imported. In every one of these five cases the patient spent the day in some part of the metropolis, other members of the different households remaining free.

The question of providing proper means for the isolation of infectious diseases has been much before the Council. Its importance is fully recognised by them. They are anxious to carry out what would be the most efficient and economical scheme. The principle of combining with other districts has been unanimously agreed upon, and meetings with representatives of these other districts have been held. I believe the matter will soon be settled.

The houses of the working classes are in a fair condition.

The Bye-laws for dairies, slaughter-houses and nuisances are in good working order.

The notification of infectious diseases is in force in the district.

The annual summary of work done by the Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances is appended, as well as the tables of deaths, births, population and infectious diseases.

TABLE OF DEATHS

During the year 1899, classified according to Diseases and Ages.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.

	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	60 and upwards
TOTALS...	76	16	9	3	5	22	21

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

	Typhoid Fever.	Phthisis.	Measles.	Bronchitis. Pneumonia. Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Whooping Cough.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL.
Under 5			7	1		1	1	16	26
5 upwards	3	5		7	3		3	29	50

Deaths occurring in the district among persons not belonging thereto, 4.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1899, in the Buckhurst Hill Urban Sanitary District; classified according to Diseases and Ages.

	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1899.	
TOTALS...	4130	4700	107

Under 5 or over 5.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	FEVER. Enteric or Typhoid.	Small Pox	Erysipelas.
Under 5...	7	1			
5 upwards	5	2	7	3	1

NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Small Pox, 2; Scarlet Fever, 2.

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Annual Birth Rate	23·19	26·17	17·76	18·9	22·12
Gross Annual Death Rate ...	16·19	13·61	12·55	10·50	16·17
Corrected Annual Death Rate...	15·5	13·38	11·27	10·47	15·32
Death Rate under 5	7·44	3·85	4·25	4·04	5·31
Zymotic Death Rate	4·4	3·85	1·91	Nil.	2·55

AREA AND POPULATION

OF THE DISTRICT TO WHICH THE RETURNS BELONG.

Area in Acres 899
Population last Census 4130
Population estimated to middle of 1899 ... 4700

DEATH RATES.

General, per thousand, population estimated to middle of 1899 ... ... 16·17
Infant (under one year) per thousand Births registered ... ... 149·4

(Signed),

W. H. GIMBLETT, M.D., L.R.C.P., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health.

January 25th, 1900.

SUMMARY OF WORK

Done through the SANITARY INSPECTOR in the Urban Sanitary District of Buckhurst Hill, during the year ending December 31st, 1899.

	Total No. for Year.
Complaints received { *re* Dust Collection	3
Complaints received { „ Other matters	30
Nuisances detected with and without complaint	27
Nuisances abated :	
Re House-to-house inspection (outstanding from last year) ...	134
„ other cases (some outstanding from last year)	30
Notices served (including 1 under Housing of Working Classes Act)	20
Summonses taken out	3
Convictions	3
Cottages inspected (included in above)	
Lodging-houses inspected (none in district)...	
Slaughter-houses inspected (inspected several times)	3
Bakehouses inspected	
Dairies, Milk Shops, and Cowsheds inspected (visited 12 times) ...	5
Workshops inspected...	
Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875 ...	
Houses disinfected	7
Overcrowding abated	
Houses placed in habitable repair	
Houses closed...	1
Houses erected or re-built	2
Stables „ „ „	1
Sundry alterations, etc., completed	18
Certificates granted	
„ deferred	
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded	
Wells cleansed or repaired	
Wells closed	10
Houses connected with sewers (all new)	
„ „ „ water mains (all new and ten old) ...	
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed or existing Privies altered; Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	83
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered (a great number)	
Drain entirely relaid	70
Drains amended	19
Sundry nuisances abated	47
Animals improperly kept removed	
Samples of water taken for Analysis	
Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	
Seizures of unsound Meat, etc.	1
Plans submitted	31

The total number of visits paid during the house-to-house inspection and with reference to other nuisances, buildings in progress, to dairies and slaughter houses has been 662.

(*Signed*) H. TOOLEY, A.R.I.B.A.,

Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BUCKINGHAM.

D. L. BENSON, M.D.,
D.P.H. (CAMB.)
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

STEEPLE CLAYDON,
WINSLOW,
6th March 1900

With
Dr Benson's
Compliments

LDITC
6 MAR. 1900
AFTER TWO O'CLOCK

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28960592